

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, in which the impact size of the laser beam on the object is greater than or equal to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

[Please amend claim 4 as follows:]

4. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, in which the displacement frequency of the object (2) between two laser pulses of the source (6) is greater than or equal to 15 Hz.

[Please amend claim 5 as follows:]

5. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, in which the source (6) is capable to emitting ultraviolet light.

[Please amend claim 6 as follows:]

6. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, in which the relative variation of energy between 1 laser pulse and the next does not exceed 5%.

[Please amend claim 7 as follows:]

7. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, in which the diaphragm (8) comprises a circular aperture capable of selecting the central part of the laser beam output from the laser

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source, the first optical means are refractive optical means, and the second optical means are refractive optical means comprising a microscope objective (12).

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, also comprising means (38) of blowing a gas jet onto the object (2).

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[Please amend claim 10 as follows:]

10. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, also comprising:

- means (32) of observing the object, so that the object can be placed in the image plane of the diaphragm and
- a mirror (26) reflecting at the wavelength of the laser source and transparent at other wavelengths, this mirror being placed on the light path between the first and second optical means and designed to reflect almost the entire laser beam to these second optical means and to transmit an image of the object to the observation means.

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS:

11. Device according to claim 2, in which the impact size of the laser beam on the object is greater than or equal to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. Device according to claim 3, in which the displacement frequency of the object (2) between two laser pulses of the source (6) is greater than or equal to 15 Hz.

13. Device according to claim 4, in which the source (6) is capable to emitting ultraviolet light.

14. Device according to claim 5, in which the relative variation of energy between 1 laser pulse and the next does not exceed 5%.

15. Device according to claim 6, in which the diaphragm (8) comprises a circular aperture capable of selecting the central part of the laser beam output from the laser source, the first optical means are refractive optical means, and the second optical means are refractive optical means comprising a microscope objective (12).

16. Device according to claim 8, also comprising means (38) of blowing a gas jet onto the object (2).

17. Device according to claim 9, also comprising:

- means (32) of observing the object, so that the object can be placed in the image plane of the diaphragm and

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